

SALT DEBATES threaten damaging leaks of U.S. intelligence secrets.

Administration pleaders for Senate ratification will be tempted to leak information indicating the U.S. can verify Soviet compliance with the arms-control pact; Utah Sen. Garn already accuses the Carter crew of these tactics. Senate foes of SALT will have alluring opportunities to spill facts raising doubt about verification. Carter already worries about possible dangers to national security.

"We will be sharing with Congress some of our most sensitive defense and intelligence secrets," the President cautions. "And the leaders in Congress must ensure that these secrets will be guarded carefully." A Pentagon intelligence expert, calling recent leaks worrisome, fears the tendency to leak information will grow as the SALT fight heats up.

The administration debates whether to release some satellite pictures of Soviet territory, to show U.S. monitoring ability. Moscow fears China could take advantage of them.